World's Largest Meteor Crater

Water-filled Chubb Crater is an unmistakable landmark. It is seven miles in circumference.

Location of the newly-found crater.

CENTURIES ago, the earth was bombarded by a force mightier than today's atom bomb.

Conclusive proof of this has just been reported to the National Geographic Society by Dr. Victor Ben Meen, leader of an expedition to explore Canada's Chubb Crater. The expedition was sponsored by the society and the Royal Ontario Museum.

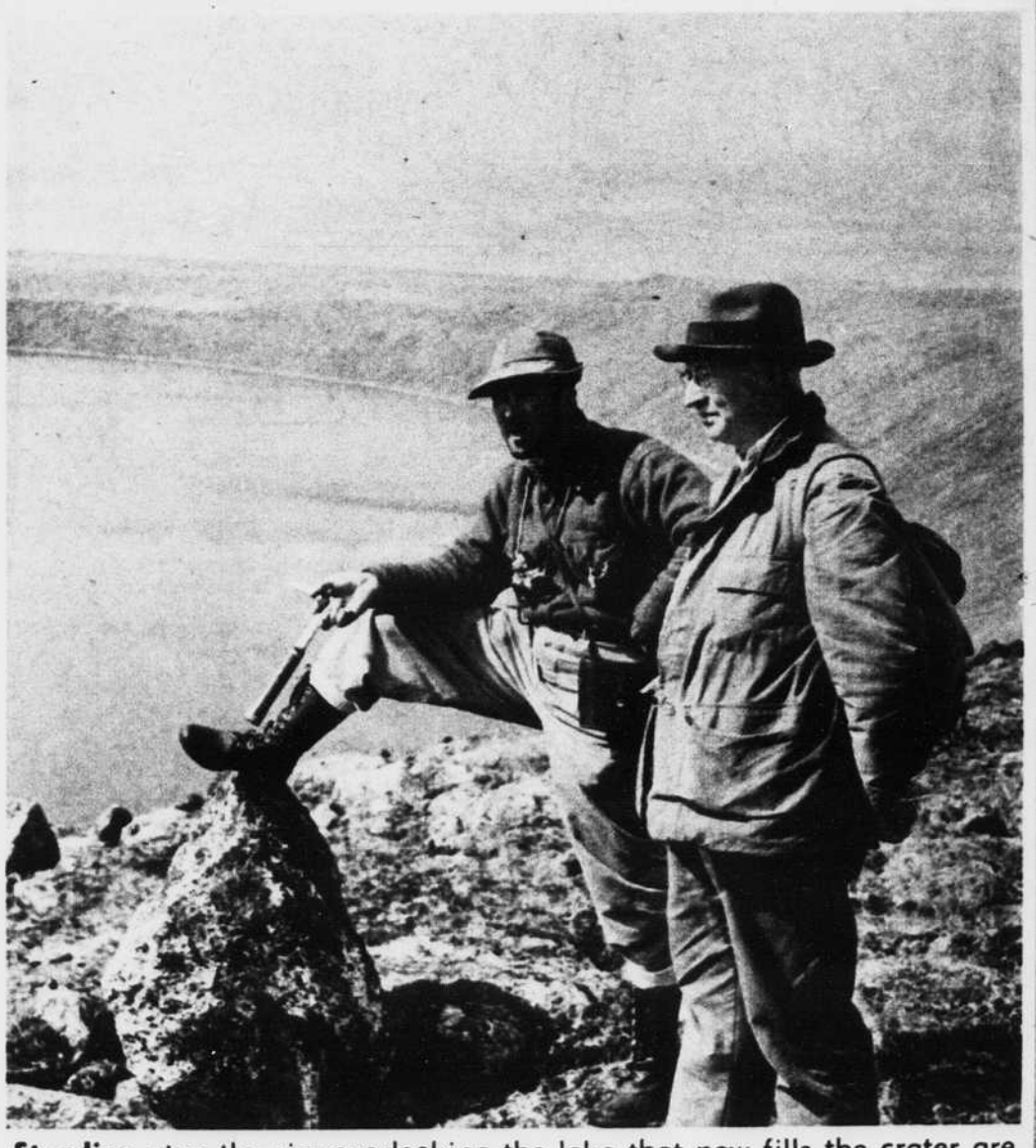
Dr. Meen has proved to the satisfaction of geologists that this gigantic scar on the earth's surface in the sub-Arctic wasteland of northwestern Quebec was caused by a meteor hurtling earthward at a tremendous speed. Its impact left a hole 2 miles in diameter and 1,350 feet deep. It is believed to be the largest crater of meteoric origin in the world.

To establish the crater's origin, Dr. Meen discovered the presence of a "magnetic anomaly" under the eastern portion of the pushed-up rim. This, Dr. Meen explains, is a scientific term for a magnet-indicated underground metal-bearing mass. It constitutes proof of iron-bearing meteoric material. The absence of vulcanism (volcanic formation) had been proved previously.

Chubb Crater was discovered in February, 1950, by Frederick W. Chubb, a prospector seeking gold and diamonds.

Associated with Dr. Meen, noted Canadian geologist and director of the Royal Museum, were Nigel Vernon Martin, limnologist; John Alfred Charles Keefe, geophysicist; Mr. Chubb; Leonard Irwin Cowan, preparator and technician, and Richard H. Stewart of Washington, National Geographic Society photographer, who made these pictures.

Base camp of the scientific expedition was pitched beside a placid lake not far from the crater's rim. At left is Dr. Meen, explorer-director.



Standing atop the rim overlooking the lake that now fills the crater are Dr. Meen (left) and Dr. I. W. Jones of the Quebec Department of Mines.